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In December 1951, the FFu 2, which is the Commercial Radio subdivision of the Teletransmission Department of the Soviet Zone Postal Ministry, prepared a draft on principles governing a radio operator's career in the marine radio service. The draft gives information on the training of applicants. *

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* [REDACTED] Comment. For a copy of the draft, see Annex.

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Principles Governing the Radio Operator's Career for Marine Radio Service.

Suggestions concerning the radio operators' career in the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (German Democratic Republic) (DDR) were discussed with the Main Section V (VS2) and the Gewerkschaft Deutscher Seeleute (GDS) represented by Captain Propp. The following agreement was reached:

In contrast to the two separate careers which exist for radio operators in Western Germany, the DDR prefers one radio operators' career with an elementary, intermediate and final degree for radio operators holding a Special Operator's Certificate, a Class II certificate or a Class I certificate. Eligible for this career are high school graduates and graduates from elementary schools. High school graduates must have one year of uninterrupted practical training in radio service, including six months of practical training in high frequency and six months of practical service as an auxiliary radioman at a marine radio station headed by a certified radio operator. After successfully completing this year of practical training and being found suited for a radio operator's career, the prospective radio operator is required to attend an 8 to 10 month course at the Radio Operator's School and acquire the radio operator's Class II certificate at the end of this period. The student operator must also be familiar with the policies and regulations governing the marine radio service, radio engineering as related to ship radio stations, and furthermore have sufficient practical experience in the use of the English and Russian languages and possess an understanding of sociology. This examination will be more or less comparable to the Class II Main Examination in Western Germany, except that its standard will be somewhat higher as may be inferred from the examination requirements explained above. There will be no two grades of Radio Certificate Class II i.e. a General Examination Certificate and a Main Examination Certificate as in Western Germany. Advance training for the examination for the Class I certificate will follow after three years of service aboard Group-3 ships in the Atlantic trade and will last about three months. The service period of three years may be reduced in the event of particular aptitude in the candidate. Holders of a "Radio Operator's Certificate Class I" are termed "Radio Officer". They will be authorized to operate Class I and Class II marine radio stations after one year of successful service with such stations. Applicants who attended elementary school are required to obtain the Special Radio Certificate prior to attending the Radio Certificate Class II courses. It was deemed advisable to set the standard higher than required for vessels which, according to international rules, must not be equipped with a radio station especially as the Marine Radio Regulations in the DDR demand that more vessels be equipped with radios than is demanded by international rules, and as these vessels, particularly those engaged in deep sea fishing, are frequently employed in the Atlantic trade. It must be noted that the ship radio stations are equipped with modern technically improved transmitters whose operation requires particular efficiency, especially in these waters. As the international regulations make no distinction between the "Special Radio Certificate" and the "Certificate Class II", with regard to the reception and transmission of Morse signals, the requirements for the Special Radio Certificate in the DDR will necessarily result in a better knowledge of radio regulations, radio engineering and the most important technical terms which occur in the marine radio service in English. The English vocabulary will include weather information service terms, the official radio abbreviations, the Q-code, etc. These requirements will best serve operational needs and, at the same time, form a suitable basis for the organization of the courses for "Radio Certificate Class II." The period of apprenticeship required for obtaining the "Special Radio Certificate

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Class II" will therefore be fixed at nine months instead of six, while the course for "Radio Certificate Class II" will be only six months. Admission to the nine-month course for the "Special Radio Certificate", requires that the student be proficient in mathematics, physics and manual dexterity during his elementary school period. After successfully attending a six-month course, acquiring the Special Radio Certificate, and completing three years of service at sea aboard Group-3 ships, the candidate may apply for "Radio Certificate Class II." The prescribed three-year service period at sea may be reduced in the event the candidate displays a particular aptitude. However, proof must be secured. After consulting other interested quarters, Section V will see to it that the provisions of the Juvenile Law be complied with during the period of service at sea.

An applicant who passed the examination for Certificate Class II would be confronted with the same conditions for his career with respect to Radio Certificate Class I as are high school graduates and vice versa. Particularly gifted and efficient candidates may be granted a reduction of the period of service afloat between the acquisition of the Special Radio Certificate and the required examination for Certificate Class II. Radio Certificate Class II may also be acquired by nautical and technical ship's officers and other crew members who, according to the German Merchant Shipping Law (Seemannsordnung) hold officers' ranks. Further details will be issued later by the GDS.

It is expressly stated that Radio Certificate Class II issued to ship's officers is valid only for performing radio service aboard Group-3 vessels. Nautical ship's officers holding this certificate are entitled to serve as chief radio operators on Group-2 ships if they have been an assistant to a professional radio officer on a Group-1 or Group-2 ship and have served a full six-month period as a radio operator at sea.

To meet the urgent need for radio operators holding a Class II certificate, it is suggested that a special course be held for candidates applying for Radio Certificate Class II, who are able to submit previous radio certificates or the Special Certificate Class I or Class II. A curriculum for the Special Certificate course at the Mustraw Navigation School, which is scheduled to begin on 1 May 1952, will be prepared on the basis of these regulations and provide for a nine-month course which meets the requirements agreed upon for radio certificates in the DDR. Section V will be charged with all necessary preparations and the coordination of requirements for the final regulations governing radio operator careers.

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